Allegation of Favouritism in UPSC

3499. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media report under the caption "Chayan Prakriya mein pakshpat ka aarop ?";

(b) whether the allegation of favouritism has been made against the UPSC in the selection of 33 Executive Engineers for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(c) if so, the details and status thereof and action being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Allegation of favouritism has been made.

(c) The Union Public Service Commission have reported that the allegations of favouritism against the Commission *prima-facie* are not correct. The Ministry's representative was appointed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Commission had also asked the Ministry concerned to ensure that their representative is not interested in or related to any candidate. The Ministerial representative has no role to play in the selection of the candidates in the Interview Board. He only assists the Board in case any clarification about the posts, its recruitment rules, promotional avenues and duties of the posts etc., are sought by the Board. The candidates selected for the posts in question were found suitable for appointment by the eminent advisers of proven acumen and experience.

Restoration of LTC

3500. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) for the Central and State Government employees may be restor boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would be extended once in four years to retired pensioners for encouraging inland domestic travel ?